

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 088519

O R 251507Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIAZE 2886

CINCUER FOR POLAD AND OPS IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-OCO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE, FR

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF FRENCH PATROL BY EAST GERMANS

1.FRENCH MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT TWO MEMBERS
OF ROUTINE WALL PATROL STRAYED SLIGHTLY BEYOND BERLIN-
GDR BOUNDARY AT COORDINAZE UU 798325 AT 0945 HOURS.
SOLDIERS WERE HELD ON SPOT AND THEN REMOVED BY
BOAT TO OTHER SIDE OF HAVEL.

2. UPON BEING INFORMED, FRENCH MISSION IMMEDIATELY
CALLED SOVIET PROTOCOL OFFICER WHO SAID HE WOULD SEE
WHAT HE COULD DO. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR BELETSKIY
TELEPHONED BACK SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO SAY PATROL HAD
PENETRATED 50 METERS INTO GDR TERRITORY AND HE WAS
CONVINCED SEIZURE WAS NOT PREMEDITATED. HE SAID
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IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF FRENCH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN

WOULD MAKE DEMARCHE TO GDR. FRENCH MISSION HAS INFORMED US IT IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO INSIST ON DEALING WITH SOVIETS, IN WHICH CASE RELEASE MIGHT BE DELAYED OR TO DO AS BELETSKIY SUGGESTED.

3. WHILE ONE COULD ARGUE THAT INASMUCH AS GDR TERRORISM IS INVOLVED, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO FRENCH RAISING MATTER DIRECTLY WITH GDR, NOW THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, WE ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO ESTABLISH SUCH PRECEDENT LEST IT LEAD DOWN SLIPPERY ROAD IN REGARD TO ALLIED PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE INFORMED FRENCH MISSION THAT WE BELIEVE STATUS SHOULD HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER LOCUS AND THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP SOVIET NOSE TO WHEEL ON GROUNDS THAT A MATTER INVOLVING ALLIED FORCES PERSONNEL IS A QUADRIPARTITE CONCERN.

4. USCOB CONCURS. KLEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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